> bringing business to a very low ebb. The City is in control of the Labour Unions, which Dr. Sun has fostered almost to the point of Bolshevism, if not to the verge of Communism.[7] *

The merchant class throughout the Province was forced to the conclusion that its only means of survival would be the reorganization of the Merchant Volunteer Corps. This organization had existed for many years, throughout the Province, It was non-political in character, the functions of the Volunteers being restricted to the maintenance of local order, and protection from irresponsible militarism. In May, delegates from upwards of 100 towns and districts in Kwangtung assembled and decided to organize the Volunteers into one central body, under the command of Mr. Chan Lim-pak—(Ch'eng Lien-po), Compradore of the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank. In a manifesto issued after the conference they asserted that

> ** We do not intend to allow the port of Canton or aay other city within our Province, to degenerate, or to let our citizens here or anywhere else starve themselves and their families . . . This body, jointly or severally, - will supplement the regular police forces of the Province for the preservation of peace and order . . . The new Merchants* Volunteer Corps of Kwangtung has no other outside object or purpose than to be a non-partisan military unit for local self-defence against lawlessness, to preserve peace and order, and to suppress piracy and brigandage . . . We are today inaugurating a movement for the salvation of China through direct action on the part of the Chinese themselves, instead of through the action of the governing few. We organize to make democracy safe/'

That some drastic action was necessary to check the reign of lawlessness in Canton and the vicinity may be judged from an outrage that took place on Shameen (the Foreign Concession at Canton) on June 19. M_f Merlin, the Governor General of French Indo-